

Message Text

SECRET

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16

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 282024Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7376

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

S E C R E T OTTAWA 3249

EXDIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR TECH PARM IAEA IN US

SUBJ INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY

REF OTTAWA 3126, 3119

1. IN CONVERSATION AUGUST 26, EXTAFF OFFICIAL GEORGE HAYNAL, WHO IS IN EFFECT DESK OFFICER FOR GOC-GOI NUCLEAR RELATIONS, GAVE POLCOUNS SOME ELABORATION OF DEPUTY MINISTER ROBINSON'S COMMENTS TO AMBASSADOR (REFTELS). CONCERNING ROBINSON'S REFERENCE TO "CURRENT INDICATIONS THAT INDIANS MAY BE MOVING TOWARD ANOTHER EXPLOSION," HAYNAL STATED THAT GOC HAD NOT SPECIFIC INDICATIONS TO THAT EFFECT. ASIDE FROM PAKISTANI "FALSE ALARM" PRIOR TO NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE, THERE MIGHT BE SOME LOGIC IN THE ASSUMPTION THAT A SECOND EXPLOSION COULD BE CONSIDERED NECESSARY FOR PROVING UP A PROGRAM OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT. ADDITIONALLY, A CASE COULD BE MADE FOR THE SPECULATION THAT MRS. GHANDI'S GREATER RELIANCE ON THE "HARD-LINERS" WITHIN THE GOI MIGHT GIVE GREATER LEVERAGE TO THOSE ELEMENTS WHO MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO PRESS FOR ANOTHER EXPLOSION. HOWEVER, THE GOC'S ANALYSIS LED THEM TO THE CONCLUSION THAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS HAD BEEN THE PARAMOUNT MOTIVATION FOR THE FIRST EXPLOSION, AND THE FACT THAT THESE CONSIDERATIONS WERE NO LONGER OPERATIVE

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SUGGESTS TO THE GOC THAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES

FOR A SECOND EXPLOSION HAVE DIMINISHED. THUS WHILE IT IS PERHAPS SAFEST TO OPERATE ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT A SECOND EXPLOSION MIGHT COME, THE GOC HAS NO SPECIFIC REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ONE IS IMMINENT. HAYNAL HASTENED TO ADD THAT GOC HAD, HOWEVER, NO ADVANCE INDICATION THAT THE FIRST EXPLOSION WAS IMMINENT.

2. HAYNAL VOLUNTEERED THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN AGREEMENT TO UPGRADE THE RAPP SAFEGUARDS, WHICH HAD BEEN INITIATED DURING THE IVAN HEAD VISIT IN JANUARY, HAD CONTINUED SINCE THEN WITH SEVERAL EXCHANGES OF DRAFTS. THE GOI IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING ANOTHER DRAFT WHICH THE GOC HOPES WILL BE THE FINAL ONE. NOTIFICATION OF GOI ACCEPTANCE COULD COME AS EARLY AS THE FIRST/OR SECOND WEEK OF SEPTEMBER.
PORTER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, NUCLEAR TESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OTTAWA03249
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750299-0354
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975089/aaaaahpl.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 OTTAWA 3126
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY
TAGS: PFOR, TECH, PARM, IN, US, IAEA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006